

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 95-715-G - ORDER NO. 98-717  
SEPTEMBER 16, 1998

IN RE: Application of Piedmont Natural Gas	)	ORDER ON
Company for Adjustment in its Rates and	)	PROCEDURE
Charges and for Approval of Depreciation	)	
Rates.	)	

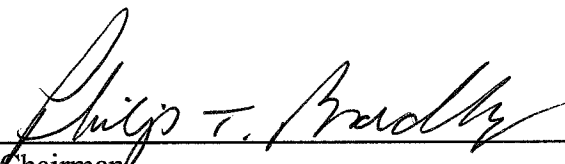
This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the remand by the South Carolina Supreme Court of our Orders in this rate case docket involving Piedmont Natural Gas Company (Piedmont or the Company). That Court noted that parties have until September 15, 1998 to file Requests for Rehearing with the Court. The Court held in its Order, *inter alia*, that we improperly allowed the inclusion of Demand Side Management costs in Piedmont's expenses, and that we failed to set forth sufficient findings of fact to support our conclusion that a 12.5% rate of return on equity was appropriate for the Company.

We hold that the Commission Staff need not ask the Court for a rehearing/reconsideration in this matter. We do intend to issue an Order on Remand in this case, however. In preparation for the issuance of this Order, we hereby request that parties in the case (except for Commission Staff), at their option, forward any proposed Orders within ten (10) days of September 15, 1998, i.e. to be filed in the offices of the Commission by the close of business on September 25, 1998. Commission Staff may

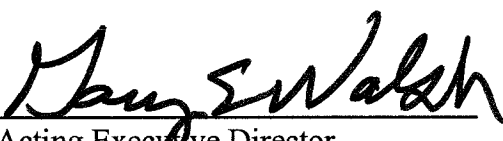
then forward its proposed Order after that time for our consideration in the remand process.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Acting Executive Director

(SEAL)